

Free Press,  
BURLINGTON, VT.

FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 27, 1850

Mr. S. M. PATTINGILL is our authorized advertising and subscription agent in Boston and elsewhere, of this paper.

On looking over our exchanges, after ten days absence from our post, we find that the stomach and steady old Green Mountain State has become the object of reproachful attack from a variety of quarters. From the *N. Y. Herald*, (and we can start from no lower point) up to the *National Intelligencer*, (and we can end at no higher), obligations have been shouldered upon our State, its Legislature and its Governor, with a freedom that usually proceeds from a consciousness of rectitude, by the Washington *Republic* and *Union*, *N. Y. Commercial Advertiser*, the *Courier and Times* of Boston, the *Albany Register*, and the southern pro-slavery papers generally, besides a miscellany of country papers which appear to have the safety and welfare of the Union especially at heart, all on account of a law passed at the recent session of our Legislature, relating to the writ of Habeas Corpus and the right of Trial by Jury. The papers named and referred to have gone into paroxysms of lamentation and regret, that *Vermont*—the "most respectable and heretofore always Whig State of Vermont," as the *National Intelligencer* courteously says—should have re-affirmed the Constitution at right of all her "inhabitants" to the writ of Habeas Corpus, and Trial by Jury?

It appears to us that the outcry is undesired. We think that Vermont has, as yet, done nothing that a Sovereign State in this Confederacy, it was not her right and her duty to do. We have read the strictures of the papers which we have mentioned, and, while we admit that these strictures evince the highest order of patriotism and love for the Union, (a patriotism and love which we hope to imitate, at a humble distance, by our co-citizens), we are wholly unable to perceive their application to the legislative action of Vermont. Vermont ranks herself among the most law-loving and law-abiding States in the Union. She never voted for Jackson, nor Van Buren, nor Polk, nor Cass! She has ALWAYS, unflinching and "uninterrupted," placed herself beside Kentucky and North Carolina in her devotion to the NATIOAL UNION CANDIDATE, whether he might be from the North or the South. She has never denominated that a President of the United States should be a Northern or a Southern, but a NATIOAL Whig. She reveres the memory of President Taylor. She adopted his platform and asked no better. She has never sought, (and we appeal to her action at the polls and in the Legislature to sustain the assertion)—she has never sought to interfere with the constitutional rights of Slavery, NEVER! She has never asked, nor demanded that Slavery shall be deprived of any privilege or right that the Constitution of this glorious republic secures to it; and she never will.

But she has recently passed a law to grant more certain protection to her own citizens and "inhabitants" against UNLAWFUL extradition. She has passed a law that *leaves*, if you please, towards the Cause of Freedom—a law whose only possible "error" is that it "leaves to virtue its side." It is a CONSTITUTIONAL LAW in VERMONT at least! It simply intends to enforce the plain guaranty of her Constitution and that of the Union, in favor of Freedom—that is all. If her law is unconstitutional, the SUPREMACY OF THE UNITED STATES, on a proper issue presented, will so decide; and with this Vermont will be content. In the mean time, Vermont does not mean that her citizens or "inhabitants" shall be "delivered up" to Slavery, unless they are Slaves. When her laws shall be pronounced unconstitutional by the Supreme Court (not by the Washington *Republic* nor by any other newspaper) she will cheerfully and unhesitatingly submit. She proposes neither disunion, rebellion, treason, nor nullification. She leaves that kind of "demonstration" to the South Carolina. She has "cast her lot" with the Union, and will abide by it. But she will, by every means not prohibited by the Constitution, PROTECT HER OWN CITIZENS.

We shall refer to this topic again. We maintain that the recent Law of our State which is so extensively denounced, is constitutional and proper—*a thousand times more so than the "Fugitive Slave Law"* of Congress which deprives "human beings" of the right of Habeas Corpus and Trial by Jury. When the contest comes which is to settle the limitless application of these rights, we trust in God that we shall be found "on the side of Freedom!"

## An Incentive Spirit.

The cause of Freedom is not infrequently damaged by the violence of its advocates. This fact has been long and painfully demonstrated by the violence which distinguishes the course of Mr. Giddings, in the House of Representatives. Though as warmly devoted to Emancipation, and as deeply imbued with its sentiments and sympathies as that gentleman claims to be, we have not for years found anything in his speeches calculated to facilitate the progress of Emancipation or to ameliorate the condition of the Slave. On the contrary, we are compelled to believe that the effect of his act in Congress, for more than twenty years, has been to darken the hopes of Freedom and to aggravate the evils of Slavery.

It is many years since we have published a speech from Mr. Giddings, for while maintaining right principles, it is done in the wrong temper and spirit. In his recent speech, if correctly reported there is a most revolting sentiment. We did not hesitate to differ with Mr. Webster, and to express strong regrets at his course in regard to the "Peace Measures." We still believe that it would have been better for the country if he had sustained General Taylor. Time, however, will show whether Mr. Webster or General Taylor was right; and inasmuch as Congress adopted the "Peace Measures," we are willing to await results.

But there is a ferocity in the parallel which Mr. Giddings draws between the Secretary of the State and the murderer of Diet. Parkman, which cannot fail to excite universal disgust. "Sir, I was about to make some comparisons, but perhaps they may be regarded as indecent. During last summer two distinguished gentlemen of the same name occupied much of the public attention. One was said to have committed murder, and the other to have procured the passage of this law; the other contributed his efforts for the passage of this law; which must consign hundreds, perhaps thousands, to premature graves. I, sir, cannot speak for others; but for myself I would rather meet my final Judge with the guilt of him who has gone to his account than of him who sets in yonder Cabinet."

And this is the man who is looked upon, by a certain class, as a "leader in salutary reform" in this country! A more odious, and, we think, fully evicted, a less dangerous, demagogue, never existed. It appears to be a benignant provision of Providence that men like Joshua R. Giddings are blessed with certain qualities of conduct that render them harmless. The world progresses, in all the essentials of freedom and humanity, in spite of Mr. Giddings!

## The Bull and the Ox.

On the 11th inst. the Rutland *Union Whig* held the following language:

The following temperate and judicious remarks are from the *New York Tribune*, a paper which can speak sense, perhaps, without being supposed by agitating words to be acting under administration or silver-grey influence.

"As a general proposition, we esteem it unadvised and perilous to assume or argue popularly that a legislative act is unconstitutional, with the exception of the case of the Habeas Corpus and Trial by Jury, in which every valid law is entitled, unless you are preparing to contest the point before the proper tribunal, intending to abide its decision."

On the 18th inst. the same paper speaks of the law passed by our own Legislature, relating to Habeas Corpus and Trial by Jury, as follows:

The Legislature of our hitherto much-respected State, passed an act, at its last session, intended by the mover to over-rule the law of Congress respecting fugitives from labor. We have refrained from all allusion to this most unfortunate enactment from most mere chagrin and shame. It was whirled through the two Houses on the last day of the session, in the tempest of legislation which was concentrated into the closing hours—passing the several formalities of law-making without notice or remark. It is not strictly true to say that it was "whirled" through, in strictest truth, it was not considered at all.

For the substance and scope of the law, no defense or excuse can be made. It attempts to repeal certain portions of the late law of Congress, in *trans*; and instructs certain State Officers and Magistrates to treat that law, as such portions of it, with utter disregard. This is not the treatment which the dignity or self-respect of Vermont should lead her to bestow upon the legislation of Congress. Its laws of Congress are unwise, or even unconstitutional, it is not for Vermont or any other State to nullify or repeal them. We have placed ourselves, by this act, in a position in which we have no defense against the judgment of the whole country. We were "three armed" when we had our "quarrel" just? Why did we throw away our strength? The influence of Vermont was by no means inconsiderable upon this very act of slavery. As a constitutional opponent of that evil institution, we were—as a petition and petitioners to the constitution and the laws, she will become weak and contemptible indeed. In every view, the passage of this act is deplorable.

The severity of condemnation which this mis-step has drawn upon our State from quarters where a wise man would be proudest of approval, is most painful to us. We had indulged the hope, (a somewhat fond one we confess) that the act would sink at once into its appropriate oblivion. We encouraged that oblivion by the charity of our silence. The hope was vain."

In the latter case, it was your ox that gored my bull, and that makes all the difference in the world! Our friends of the *Union Whig* are quite delighted to find the *New York Tribune* recommending "respect and obedience" to the Law which gives to Southern Slaveholders the power to "grab" anybody they may please to "claim" as a "fugitive Slave," but they look "with chagrin and shame" upon a Vermont Law whose only intent is to protect the right of her "inhabitants" to personal freedom!

But what does the Whig mean by speaking of "our hitherto much respected State?" We claim that the glorious old State of Vermont has done nothing, thus far, that should not increase the "respect" of any of her children for her good name. Her Habeas Corpus and Trial by Jury Law, of the last Session, is a just, proper, constitutional, humane, admirable law. It does not "attempt to repeal" either "in *trans*" or any other way, "certain portions of the late law of Congress." And we deny that it was passed without consideration. It was passed calmly, deliberately. It first passed the House in due form; and was referred, in the Senate, to the Judiciary Committee of that body, who reported favorably upon it. It is not for the Whig, or any body else, to assert that this report was made with "no consideration at all." It was made on due consideration, and unanimously concurred in by the Senate, as is ought to have been.

Vermont seeks neither to "nullify" nor "repeal" any "law of Congress," and if she ever becomes "weak and contemptible indeed," it will be when she deserts the Cause of Freedom, and fails to guaranty to her "inhabitants" the right of Habeas Corpus and Trial by Jury. When the Supreme Court of the United States decides that she has *unconstitutionally* guaranteed those rights, in any given instance, she will submit—in the mean time, she will stand by them.

Quite a novel affair came off in New York, last week. The Hannibal Guards are a "crack" Military Company, in that City, composed as their name indicates, of colored people. Hannibal, the renowned Carthage destroyer, was unquestionably, a "colored gentleman" without any mixture—black as the ace of spades and three times as potent. It appears that the Hannibal Guards visited Troy, en *militaire*, not long ago, and were received in the most hospitable manner in that classical city (classical in itself, and classical on account of its proximity to Mount Ida and the gods generally) by Col. THOMAS VAN SICK, and the Troy City Guards, of whom he is the justly renowned Commander. The Troy City Guards would have done the Hannibal Guards "brown," if they hadn't been rather more than brown to start with; so they did them emphatically black. And this the Hannibal Guards did not forget. On reaching home they voted Colonel Van SICK a Sword, got up a grand Military Banquet, and Civic Breakfast, Dinner, Supper and Ball, and combining the attractions of the Presentation of the Sword with the Dance, Marching, Terpsichore, they offered a programme of extraordinary attractiveness. We have now before us the "Grand Bill of Fare," for the Breakfast, Dinner and Supper, and the "Order of Dancing," for the Ball—the entire proceeding embracing an entire day! Nothing has been published like it since the "delenda est Carthago," nor before! Othello himself could

not have conceived such "perfect joy," as the Committee of Arrangements of the Hannibal Guards prepared for their guests! Nothing was omitted, from a Snipe to an Ox, from a lozenge to a pyramid! Tax "courses" scarcely finished the Dinner Table, and the Supper Table ably blazed with life-like fish, and taints of Jelly navigated by transparent fish, and flanked by amphibious oysters.

At 9 o'clock P. M. the grand ceremony of Presentation of the Sword which Sword we have ourselves seen and handled took place.—The Hannibal Guards, by their Orator, made a speech that has not yet been reported, and Colonel VAN SICK replied as follows, as we learn from the *Troy Post*:

CAPTAIN:—I receive with great pleasure this evidence of regard from the Hannibal Guards. This acknowledgment of my efforts to elevate our oppressed race, and to organize a colored force, fills my heart with great joy. Allow me also to express my great gratification at the beauty and order of this African Company. It shows what can be done by our race. It proves that we are not destitute of that moral capacity and power, which are necessary to redeem and protect our mother country.

Your name indicates your character. Hannibal was a colored man, and yet he was the greatest captain of his, or any age. This beautiful sword I shall value above all price, as a testimonial of your appreciation of my humble efforts to render you comfortable while upon your recent visit to Troy. I shall cling to it while this arm has strength to wield it. It shall never be drawn but for a good cause, nor sheathed in dishonor. If the rights of our country require it, it shall never know its scabbard till victory crowns our efforts, or Death prostrates its possessor.

We call this a most and appropriate speech, and in the highest degree creditable to the Troy City Guards, and their Commander.

Of the Supper and Ball, we can only speak from rumor, which pronounces the former sumptuous, and the latter elegant to the remotest point of perspiration. Before we left Troy, Colonel VAN SICK had returned to that City, and had resumed his customary pacific avocations. He and his superb Sword—Sword and Silver Grey—can be seen at the office of Mr. RICH.

A Union Meeting was held at Bath, Me., on Monday evening. It was very respectfully and numerously attended. Speeches were made by Gov. Hubbard, Gen. F. Curtis, Esq., of this City, Hon. Nathan Clifford, E. W. Fairlee, Esq., Hon. Charles Andrews, Manasseh Smith, Esq., and Hon. David Bronson. Letters were received from Hon. George Evans, Hon. Lewis Cass, Hon. Rufus Choate, Hon. Daniel Goodenow, Hon. J. W. Bradley, Judge Tenney, and Elmer Shepley, Esq., who had received invitations to be present, but were unable to attend. A series of resolutions was adopted.—*Boston Atlas*.

This is the first we have heard of any thing like *disunion* in Maine. It is a dreadfully loco loco State, to be sure, but we had always supposed that every body in it was in favor of the Union. Perhaps the *Atlas* can tell us where the trouble is. By the way, we hope Lewis Cass's letter will be published. If, as the world knows, is in favor of "diffusing" slavery for its own good, and is strongly committed against any thing like "noise and confusion" in this extensive country. We are sorry to feel obliged to say, that when we see Gen. Cass's name associated with these "Union Meetings," we are strongly apprehensive that there is trouble ahead. Perhaps his letter will dispel our fears:—

"Timeso Danos, et dona ferentes,"

which means, in the vernacular, that when Gen. Cass is anxious about the Republic, the Republic had better look out for him!

## Free Soilers take notice!

"CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, at the recent Free Soil Convention in Norfolk county, said he 'begged leave to signify, and pray that, the fact might be communicated to all the Free Soilers, that he would never consent to be a candidate for an office which is the result of combination. He would never forget the attractions of the Democratic party, and could never identify himself with any of their doings.'"

Mr. Charles Francis Adams was the Free Democracy candidate for Vice President, in 1848, playing second fiddle to Martin Van Buren! We believe he is the object of special idolatry with the Burlington *Courier*. We hope that remarkable paper, which is now a Free Trade, Sub-Treasury, Locofoco organ, will favor the public with its views of Mr. Adams's views. The *Courier* labored and voted, last fall, with Eastman, Vilas & Co., to secure the success of a "combination" which Mr. Adams very explicitly denounces. Will the *Courier* tell us what it goes for the combination or for "the last Adams?"

## The Post Office Bill.

Mr. Potter offered a substitute, namely: "The uniform rate on letters to be three cents; newspapers, books and other descriptions not connected with commerce, of no greater weight than two ounces each. Newspapers delivered in the State where they are printed, one half the foreign rate."

This is a very slight improvement on the pending bill. It is not especially objectionable; not, however, because it discriminates between newspapers delivered in and out of the State; that discrimination is proper; but because the discrimination is not carried far enough. It is not right to allow a New York or Albany paper to be carried to Batavia as cheaply as a paper mailed at Roche or Buffalo. In the one case the mail is burdened through a distance of 300 or 400 miles; in the other, 40 or 50 miles. With no other discrimination than that proposed, the local papers will suffer greatly from the city journals. We trust that no member from this State will vote for any such unjust proposition.

But, if this proposition is offensive, the original bill is still more so. Neither should receive the sanction of Congress. Why will not the people's representatives look at this unjustly and impartially? The country press ask nothing that is unreasonable. A free circulation within the county or Congressional District would work no mischief, while it would be an acceptable boon to all classes of community. If there is to be a Post Office reform, let it be a reform that will amount to something; not a reform directly calculated to make "the rich richer and the poor poorer."—*Albany Journal*.

"THE FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW,"—he is responsible.—The Boston *Atlas* furnishes the following brief and plain exposition of the inception, progress, and consummation of the above bill, which is causing so much trouble through the country:

The law itself was drawn up by Mr. Mason of Virginia. It was advocated by him and Lewis Cass. It passed the Senate not only

with the vote of one Whig administration Senator from the Free States, but against their arguments and votes. It was never recommended to Congress by the administration. It passed the House with the aid of only three Northern Whig members, while it had some fifty Southern Whig administration votes against it. It was called up from the table by Mr. M. Linn Boyd of Kentucky, a leading Locofoco. It was advocated by Mr. Thompson of Pennsylvania, the Locofoco Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, who closed with moving previous question, which doing sustained the bill was hurried through the House as we have stated, by Locofoco votes, and against the almost unanimous Northern administration votes.

Mr. Fillmore and the Whig administration were in no wise responsible for it. It was lost before coming to the President. The President, who found the constitutionality of the measure, and who would affirm his signature to it, he required of his law officer a written opinion in regard to its constitutionality. He evidently signed it reluctantly.—*(Missouri Sentinel)*.

The attempt to make President FILLMORE responsible for the Fugitive Slave Law is as unjust as it is ridiculous. It is a Locofoco Law, "body and brecheol," and the very fact that President FILLMORE refused to approve it till he had the opinion of the Attorney General of the United States that it does not abridge the inalienable right of every human being in this country to the writ of Habeas Corpus, prove his fidelity to the Constitution. We have no doubt he would take particular pleasure in approving any act of Congress manifestly unwise, or even *unpatriotic*. It is unduly a disgrace to the Nation, and the Age.

(Washington Correspondence of the Atlas.)

## A Singular Event.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11th, 1850.

A circumstance happened here last session, which we were inclined to superstition, or disposed to put faith in omens, might startle us not a little, and certainly cause curious apprehensions for the future. It was during a heated debate upon the compromise measures one night, and before Congress was adjourned, that, seated in the Hall of Representatives, my attention was about equally divided between the noisy declamation around me, and the beauty and brilliancy of the chandelier suspended over head, which threw out a volume of light upon one of the most impressive, solemn, and exciting scenes that ever occurred in that chamber, or probably ever will be again. The galleries were crowded, and every heart was intent upon the turn of affairs, when Mr. Bart, of South Carolina, took the floor; for then the novelty of discussion gave place to actual suspense, because it was known he intended to define the duties of the States in the Union, and, in the night, when he would stand, as Mr. Venable had previously declared, "until the crack of dawn." I was still gazing at the chandelier, at the instant Mr. Bart, delivered the memorable sentence, "secession and dissolution of every bond," when one of the gilded stars falling from the ceiling, and striking the floor, and Mr. Bart, was standing, gave way and fell to the floor, without uttering any special remark (from the fact, perhaps that very few observed the incident) and the speaker continued his speech uninterrupted, until, by the rule of the House, limiting his time to one hour, he again resumed his seat.

I noticed the circumstance in connection with his words "secession and dissolution of every bond." To-day, in counting the stars, including the fallen one, I discovered they amounted to just thirty, the number of States constituting this confederacy; but it must be borne in mind that when the Capitol was erected, only twenty States formed the Union, and hence there could have been no design, (unless prophetic) in implying that number there. But this was not all. Enumerating from the hub of the crescent nearest to where Mr. Bart, (the Representative from South Carolina) was standing, I found the fallen star to be the thirteenth, counting to the original thirteen stars, and this clearly indicating that, in the opinion of old mails and riddle-readers, the thirteenth star was clearly and unequivocally, South Carolina. She was the last admitted, if we reverse the order, and, consequently, viewed, twisted, contorted, turned, examined, in what light we please, to the original thirteen stars, and extraordinary. The gilded orb remains on the dome, but the body has dropped; and now, since the circumstance is wholly true, let these disunion parties weigh well the moral of the story. For my own part I intend to be a firm believer in omens for the next twenty years; and I trust that no features of this incident constitute a good basis for credulity.

(Correspondence of the Free Press.)

COLUMBIA, Ohio, Dec. 12, 1850.

DEAR CLARKE:—I have just listened to the inaugural of Gov. Wood. The Hall of the House of Representatives was crowded to a perfect jam, with Legislators, ladies, and the masses. The message occupied about forty minutes, and was, on the whole, very creditable paper. The Governor's pleasant and cordial greeting, when published, I will forward you a copy of his speech. You will be struck, as we were, with some of his sentiments—particularly those which assert that the Democratic party has always been opposed to the extension of slavery. He could not help giving his old legal maxim, Gov. Williams, a dig, for his views upon the slavery question.

Gov. Wood's views upon this question, are quite catholic among the Whigs of Ohio. But while he recommends the abolition of slavery, he does not, like the Whigs, feel that it should be expedient at this particular time. Still, as the Free Soilers give him very essential indirect assistance in his election, it is but right that he should tickle them a little—besides, a certain amount of *buena vista* was necessary. But to conclude my allusion to Gov. Wood, let me say that he steps into the place of a very strange Whig, and if we were here a Locofoco Governor, he is decidedly our first choice.

Balls, Soirees, and other *handicaps* are now the order of the night. All parts of Ohio, it is said, have furnished their representatives of "beauty and fashion" to these merry games.

We had an exciting debate in the Senate this morning, upon a bill for the admission of an unfortified stranger from Vermont (Mr. Ladd) to our Lachine Asylum. It was opposed, only on the ground that there are now over two hundred petitions pending from our own citizens, who cannot be admitted for want of room. Another institution will be erected, the coming season, at Cleveland.

Columbus, like your own beautiful village, feels the quickening influence of her concentrating from Ways, and industrious to become a great Central City.

Great doubts hang over the Senatorial question.—The Free Soilers hold the balance of power in both Houses, and hence, there can be no election without some compromise. It should be remembered, Mr. Evans in his present position, but we regard it as nearly out of the question. It is believed that Mr. Giddings will be united upon by the Free Soilers, but he can never be elected by the Whigs.

Gov. Ford was in the chair in the Senate Chamber last evening, presiding over a legislative Temperance Meeting. We will soon be with you on that question, if possible. Two much money grows out of it in the existing drift. The Governor stated that, out of more than one hundred and fifty petitions for pardon, now on file, in cases of the cases, nine hundred was assigned as the cause of the crimes.

But enough of pressing. Send along a little of your Vermont Winter. We are tired of balmy days.

Yours truly, V. R.

On motion of Mr. Balfour, the Senate adjourned Monday—yes 20, nays 18.

The House went into Committee of the whole, and took up the Cheap Postage Bill.

Mr. Thompson advocated the free circulation of newspapers in the counties where published, and at one half cent out of the county and in the State; out of the State one cent; transient papers two, and drop one cent.

Mr. Morse said, not a single argument had been advanced to induce him to favor a reduction of postage. Gentlemen had endeavored to show that a reduction would increase the revenue. Now, to test their sincerity, he would move to strike out the appropriation of a million and a half dollars, to meet any deficiency in the receipts. As to encouraging out of the local press of the cities, an ass they can furnish better reading matter for the people, they did not deserve encouragement.

The character of the press, within the last few years, had degenerated so, unless there be so

very Free Democratic paper) have spoken in condemnation of the nullifying act of our Legislature.—*Union Whig*.

We are sorry for it. The Legislature of Vermont, in our poor opinion, never passed a more proper or just law than the one stigmatized as "the nullifying act." There is not even "the odor" of nullification about it. We cannot congratulate our friends of the Register and Eagle on the company they keep.

Major ISRAEL RICHARDSON of the U. S. Army, and lately arrived in town two days since, from Mexico, on a visit to his Father, Hon. Israel P. Richardson. The Major was a graduate of West Point, and in the late war with Mexico distinguished himself as a brave soldier. When volunteers were called for to lead a foreign legion in storming the almost impregnable fortress of Chapultepec—Col. Ransom, Capt. Roberts, and then Lieutenant Richardson, were found at the head of danger sustaining the character of Green Mountain Boys. The valiant Ransom fell, covered with wounds—Roberts sustained by Richardson and his associates, were the first to gain the summit, where the Stars and Stripes were first planted by Capt. Roberts.

EXCITEMENT DYING AWAY.—The signal defeat that the disunionists have met with, wherever they have attempted a gathering, has considerably cooled their excitement. The governor put off the calling of the legislature altogether too long. Unless he does something the agitation will cease before it can assemble. A fugitive man once called in a doctor to prescribe for a very slight wound. When it was examined he told his boy to run with all his might for a sticking plaster. "Doctor," said the patient, "do you consider it so dangerous?" "No, but if he don't get back soon, the wound will heal!"—*Mississippi paper*.

## Thirty-first Congress.

2d Session.  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 17th.

SENATE.—The Chair laid before the Senate the report of the board of officers called to consider the propriety of creating the rank of Lieut. General, and what measures are necessary to prevent military officers from exercising civil authority. Referred to the Military Committee, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Foote arose and said: "I hold in my hand certain resolutions of censure upon myself, which have been passed by the Legislature of Mississippi, and which have been sent to me to be presented to the Senate. I do so—but desire to say one word in regard to them. The Legislature of Mississippi is a body composed of high-minded and honorable gentlemen, but they have wholly mistaken the public sentiment of the State, and I think that, by next autumn, they, and all the world, will have evidence of this fact."

The Chair asked what motion was proposed for disposing of them.

Mr. Foote said they were sent to him to be presented, and he had complied with the request. The Senate might do what it thought proper with the resolutions.—His colleague might make any motion he pleased.

Mr. Jefferson Davis moved that the resolutions be read and printed. Agreed to.

The Secretary commenced reading from the papers sent up to him, when Mr. Davis said those he was reading were the resolutions of last year. The last on the paper were the ones to be read.

Mr. Foote said he was sorry the mistake had been made. He had not read the papers himself. They were received by him in an interesting epistle from Gen. Quitman, Governor of Mississippi. He read that letter, and nothing more.

The resolutions were then read, sustaining the course of Senator Davis, and the Mississippi Representatives in the House, and disapproving the course of Senator Foote, on the territorial question during the last session.

On motion of Mr. Seward, 10,000 extra copies of the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, were ordered to be printed.

Mr. Foote, from the Committee on Military affairs, reported back the bill to establish the Western Army; also the bill to refund to South Carolina the moneys advanced, and for losses sustained by her during the Florida war.

Mr. Gwin's resolution, to print the President's Message in the Spanish language, being called up, Mr. Walker moved an amendment, to print the message also in German and Norwegian.

On motion of Mr. Bradbury, the resolution and amendments were laid on the table.

A message was received from the House announcing the death of Mr. Harman, member from Louisiana.

Mr. Dawne delivered a eulogy on the character of the deceased, and Mr. J. Davis also spoke of his many virtues. The House then adjourned.

HUSB.—Mr. Morse, of Louisiana, announced the death of his colleague, Mr. Harman.

After a eulogy, and adopting the usual resolutions of respect, the House adj.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.

SENATE.—Mr. Douglas, by request, was excused from serving on the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Bradbury's resolution, on removals from office, came up in order.

Mr. Bright had the floor, but he being absent, the subject was postponed till tomorrow.

After a protracted debate in reference to the Patent Laws.

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reformation in it, the less such papers were circulated, the better.

Mr. Taylor advocated the three and five cent postage rates. He gave notice that he should introduce an amendment to abolish postage on newspapers in the country where published, and 30 miles beyond. He was opposed to the abolition of the franking privilege, because it afforded a connecting link between Representatives and their constituents.

Mr. Hubbard spoke a few minutes in favor of reducing the size of newspapers, to be circulated free in the counties of their publication, to 100 square inches. Without concluding, he gave notice for Monday, of a resolution.

The debate in the House, on the Postage bill, will probably close next Tuesday. A vigorous effort will then be made for the consideration of the River and Harbor bill.

A strong party is organizing here, among the Whigs to bring forward Gen. Scott as their next Presidential candidate.

The Chair laid before the Senate the Report of the Superintendent of the coast survey.

The resolution offered by Mr. Cass on Monday calling for the correspondence between the United States and Austria, about Hungarian affairs was taken up.

Mr. Cass said he had received information in which pleased him much. He understood he Charge, appointed to Austria some months since had not left the country, and as it was not probable his would remain of his own accord, he supposed the President had followed the course which public sentiment required, and which the Senate had refused to adopt.

On his motion his resolution was laid over till the present.

Mr. Bradbury's resolution about removals from office was taken up.

Mr. Whitcomb again took up the case of the removal of General Lane as Governor of Oregon. He introduced Lane from charges of dereliction of duty.

Mr. Mangum said that the last administration was no favorite of his, but as Lane had made publication in defense of certain troops which went to the extent of implicating Gen. Taylor's character,—if this were so, General Taylor would it to himself to remove Lane. The private character of Gen. Taylor had never been impeached; and if Lane had undertaken this he deserved removal.

Mr. Cass read from law to show, that Mr. Weller had not exceeded the time allowed to make his return when he was removed.

Mr. Gwin followed defending Mr. Weller from charges made by Mr. Ewing, when the subject was up before in a most elaborate manner.

Mr. Ewing replied, pointing out points in Mr. Weller's conduct, which were considered by the administration in removing him.

Mr. Cass rejoined in defense of Mr. Weller. Mr. Gwin also replied in defense.

Mr. Bright followed, vindicating Mr. Lane. Without taking a vote the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.—The joint resolution to fill up vacancies in the board of regents of Smithsonian Institute passed.

Mr. Hilditch introduced a bill to make Whitehall, New York, a port of entry—referred to committee on commerce.

The House then went into committee on the cheap postage bill. The bill provides for postage on letters of half an ounce, pre-paid, three cents; on folded papers, of one cent, and on newspapers, of one cent.

Mr. Potter offered a substitute, namely, the uniform rate to be three cents on letters, and on newspapers, books, and other descriptions not connected with manuscript, and written matter of no greater weight than two ounces, one cent; newspapers delivered in State were printed, one-half of the foregoing rates; letters to Oregon and California, quadruple the above rates; three cent pieces to be coined, and a million and a half dollars appropriated to supply any deficiency in post office revenue.

Mr. Ashmun moved to amend the first section of the original bill by striking out the 3 and 5 cents, and inserting the uniform